

Media Release



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Western Health welcomes funding commitment

Western Health has welcomed a \$200 million funding commitment made by the Opposition at Sunshine Hospital today.

“I am extremely pleased that we have today received the commitment from the Opposition that, if elected, they will fund a Women’s and Children’s Hospital at Sunshine to help service the fastest growing area of Australia,” Chief Executive, Associate Professor Alex Cockram said today.

This announcement took place at Sunshine Hospital today, following a tour by the Opposition Leader, The Hon Daniel Andrews, along with the Opposition Health Minister, The Hon Gavin Jennings, accompanied by the Federal Opposition Leader and Member for Maribyrnong, The Hon Bill Shorten.

The official party toured Sunshine Hospital’s birthing suite, Pregnancy Care Centre, and Special Care Nursery before making the announcement.

“We are very grateful for the Opposition’s support and the support of the Greens who recently announced a similar commitment. We are continuing to seek support from the Coalition,” A/Prof Cockram said.

“The number of births at Sunshine Hospital has doubled in the past 10 years to more than 5,000 and 7,200 births are expected in 2025, yet our facilities have not been developed to match this demand.

“The funding commitment announced today by the Opposition is a significant commitment to women and their families in the West. It will enable the Health Service to provide increased capacity and higher quality care in more appropriate settings.

“By developing a Women’s and Children’s Hospital at Sunshine, we will also be able to free up large areas to increase the services we offer to our other patients. For example, it will enable us to perform an additional 7,000 operations each year.

The Western Women’s and Children’s Hospital will provide 237 beds, 39 special care nursery cots, four theatres and additional clinics. A new, purpose built children’s ward will be a feature of the new centre.

Sunshine Hospital has the third highest number of births of any Victorian hospital, after The Women’s and Mercy Heidelberg, yet this major maternity service currently operates in and around a very busy general hospital.

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